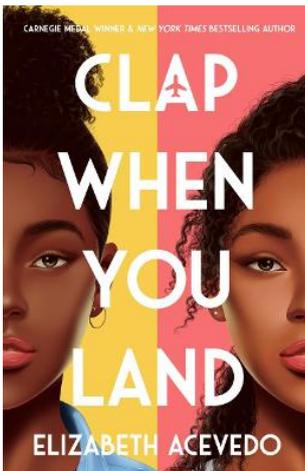


Our earliest perceptions of the world and its cultures are shaped by the books we read and it is essential that children see a true reflection of our society in the literature recommended and available to them. An absence of an inclusive range of role models or characters in our books risks deterring children from minority backgrounds from the joy and enrichment that a love of reading can bring. At LoveReading4Schools we have always championed diversity and celebrated books where all children can find themselves reflected. Here is a selection of books we've loved over the years, consolidated into one easy to browse location

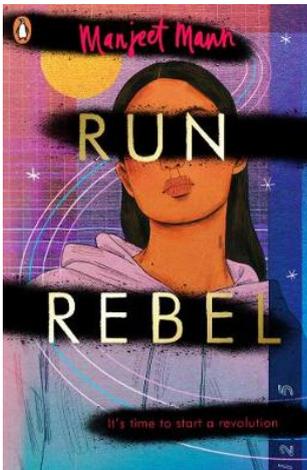


Clap When You Land

Author: Elizabeth Acevedo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

Shortlisted for CILIP Carnegie Medal 2021 - Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 From the multi-award-winning author of *The Poet X* and *With the Fire on High* comes Elizabeth Acevedo's exceptional dual-voiced novel about loss, love and sisterhood across the sea, a story partly sparked by the fatal crash of a flight from NYC to Santo Domingo in 2001. Camino Rios has always lived in the Dominican Republic with her aunt Tia, "a woman who speaks to the dead, who negotiates with spirits", a woman who's like a mother to her: "Even when Mama was alive, Tia was the other mother of my heart." Life's not easy for them on the island, but they have it better than their neighbours as a result of Camino's beloved Papi working in the US for most of year. To Camino, Papi is a "A king who built an empire so I'd have a throne to inherit", and she lives for the summer months when he comes home to them. But all life is thrown into terrible disarray when she goes to meet Papi at the airport and learns that his plane has fallen from the sky, and then: "I am swallowed by this shark-toothed truth." This story is blessed with such divinely piercing language throughout. At the same time, across the Atlantic, Yahaira Rios learns that her hero Papi has died in a plane crash. She already knew he had a wife on the island (but not of his secret daughter), and has always longed to reconcile her Dominican heritage with her American life: "Can you be from a place you have never been? You can find the island stamped all over me, but what would the island find if I was there? Can you claim a home that does not know you, much less claim you as its own?" When it emerges that Papi wishes to be buried back in DR, Yahaira's Mami insists that she will never let her "touch foot on the sands of that tierra." But Yahaira has other plans, not least when she's contacted by a girl named Camino Rios who bears an undeniable resemblance to Papi, and to her too. As well as being exceptionally affecting on grief, forgiveness and family secrets, *Clap When You Land* is also devastatingly sharp on the exploitative tendencies of tourism. In Camino's words: "I am from a playground place...Our land, lush and green, is bought and sold to foreign powers so they can build luxury hotels...Even the women, girls like me, our mothers and tias, our bodies are branded jungle gyms...Who reaps? Who eats? Not us. Not me." Overflowing with truths of the heart, and truths about inequalities that need to be broken, while also addressing the complexities of what it means to be of a place, I

can't praise this highly enough.



Run, Rebel

Author: Manjeet Mann **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 4

Shortlisted for the 2021 Branford Boase Award | Shortlisted for CILIP Carnegie Medal 2021 | Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | March 2020 Debut of the Month

This debut novel was inspired by the author's work creating Run the World, an organisation that empowers women and girls from marginalised backgrounds through sport and storytelling and the authenticity of this, at times harrowing story, is palpably evident. As is the skill of the accomplished writing which makes great use of typography and layout to really make every word count. This speeds the reader through the narrative, but it also cuts deep to reveal the emotions experienced by our narrator. Amber Rai is only 'truly alive' when running and shows great potential. But her alcoholic, abusive, misogynistic father refuses to allow her on the track. She has seen her older sister Ruby denied university and married off against her will and her downtrodden, abused mother is literally powerless to help, trapped as much by illiteracy and lack of English as the violence of her equally illiterate, unemployed husband. Amber has friends and teachers who believe in her, but she cannot explain what really goes on at home. She is a complex and believable character with very real flaws that she painfully recognises: 'inflicting pain on others/halves your own hurt'. But the story is cleverly structured on *The Anatomy of a Revolution* and inspired by her reading about revolutions for history, Amber, Ruby and her mother gradually empower each other to take small steps to freedom. This is an important, rewarding, highly empathetic read which, despite the dark subject matter, offers hope but no simplistic solutions.

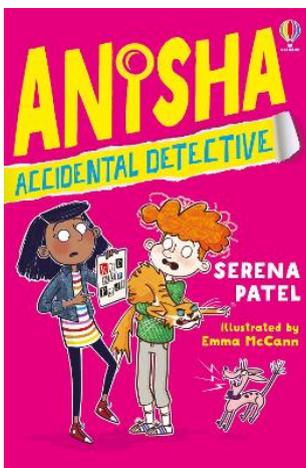


Clean Getaway

Author: Nic Stone **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 This Middle Grade debut from award-winning YA author Nic Stone (I adored her *Dear Martin* novel) features one-of-kind characters and true-to-life struggles underpinned by a special relationship between a boy and his grandma, and the segregation history of the American South. It's also powerful on themes of racism, making amends, and complex family dynamics. In big trouble at school and fearing his dad has lost faith in him, eleven-year-old Scoob has had a rough time of it of late, so the prospect of going on a road-trip with his gloriously willful grandma seems pretty good. Travelling with the Green Book guide that lists 'safe' places for African Americans to travel, G'ma takes them to places she and her deceased husband visited on a trip decades ago, though they didn't make it the

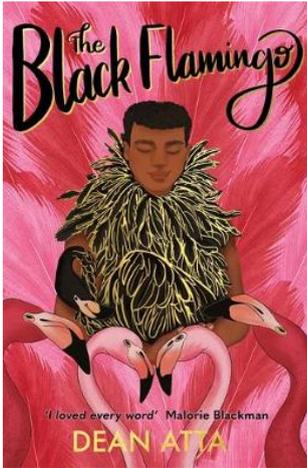
whole way. Among these sites are the bombed church where civil rights activists used to gather, including Dr Martin Luther King, and the former home of Medgar Wiley Evers, a black soldier who fought in WWII and came home to fight for civil rights. As their journey progresses, Scoob is increasingly freaked out by G'ma's actions and state of mind. "Looks like we're both trying to make a run for it," she remarks, leading Scoop to anxiously wonder what she's running from, and what she's trying to make amends for. During their moving page-turner of a trip, the story reveals how unjust life was for African Americans during segregation, and how hard it was for Scoob's African American G-pop and white G'ma to be a young married couple. Gripping, moving and informative, this is a wonderfully warm read, and Scoob's perspective is spot-on for the age-group.



Anisha, Accidental Detective

Author: Serena Patel **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

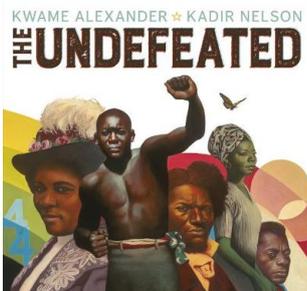
Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Awards 2021, Best Story "Numbers are great, they make sense - unlike people. You'd think this if you lived with my family." So Anisha sets the scene for the madcap mystery that unfolds in the chaotic run-up to her Aunty Bindi's epic wedding. Anisha loves her "sparkly" Aunty Bindi, but it's not easy being bridesmaid to such a flamboyant figure, especially when she's on the verge of having a "mega meltdown"! Matters take a scarier turn when Anisha finds a ransom note announcing that Tony, Bindi's fiancé, has been kidnapped and the wedding must be called off if they want to see him again. "Why did I have to be the one who found the note?" she laments. "I DON'T LIKE DRAMA!" But, in order to prevent her already frazzled family from spiraling into further chaos, Anisha decides to find Tony herself, with the help of her best friend Milo. A hilarious race against time ensues, with clues to pursue, undercover surveillance to be done and the involvement of some decidedly curious characters (among them a weeing lobster), and the menace of Anisha's "evil" cousins-to-be. The story shimmers with the vibrant exuberance of an Indian wedding, the special warmth of family and friends, and action-packed amusement. Special mention must go to the informative (and funny) footnotes that explain Indian food, customs and language referred to in the story, and to Emma McCann's energetic illustrations. April 2020 Debut of the Month Books in the Anisha, Accidental Detective Series: 1. Anisha, Accidental Detective 2. School's Cancelled



The Black Flamingo

Author: Dean Atta **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 4

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2020 | May 2020 Debut of the Month | Winner of the Stonewall Book Award | Shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize 2020 Uplifting and dazzlingly unique, this coming-of-age treasure explores identity and sexuality with an emboldening message to remember that “you have the right to be you”. As a young Barbie-loving boy, mixed race Michael wonders if he’s “only half” of everything, to which his mother poignantly replies: “Don’t let anyone tell you/that you are half-black/and half-white. Half-Cypriot/ and half-Jamaican./ You are a full human being.” But he doesn’t feel like a whole human being. Dubbed a “queerdo and weirdo” by bullies and subjected to “batty bwoy” taunts through his teenage years, he leaves London for Brighton University with hope in his heart. But even here Michael feels “like Goldilocks; trying to find a group of people/the perfect fit for me”. He doesn’t feel black enough for the Caribbean Society, or Greek enough for Hellenic Society, or queer enough for the LGBT Society. Then Michael finally finds a fit at Drag Society where he becomes The Black Flamingo, “someone fabulous, wild and strong. With or without a costume on.” Michael’s journey is complex, moving and told with a raw vitality that makes the soul soar and the heart sing, with Anshika Khullar’s magnificent illustrations and the smart design adding further depth, prompting the reader to pause for thought as his story requires.

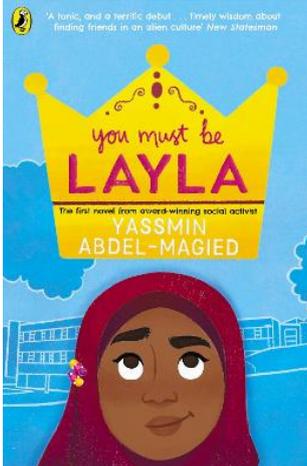


The Undeclared

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 Written for and about “the swift and sweet ones/who hurdled history and opened a world of possible”, for those who “survived America by any means necessary. And the ones who didn’t,” this is an inspiring ode to the author’s forebears and to the world-changing feats of unforgettable Black American figures. Author Kwame Alexander’s initial inspiration for this book came in the year his second daughter was born, the same year Barack Obama became the first African American president of the USA. As a result, Alexander wanted his daughters “to know how we got to this historic moment”, which is exactly what this stirring book does. The chained slaves who kept faith, the elite Olympians, the innovative musicians, the seminal scientists, the courageous activists - people from all walks of life are celebrated in Alexander’s poetically poised words, and gloriously illustrated by Kadir Nelson, with much for young children to ponder and ask questions about. As well as being a wonderful way for parents to explore Black American history with their little ones on a one-to-one basis, this will also work well with older children in a classroom context.

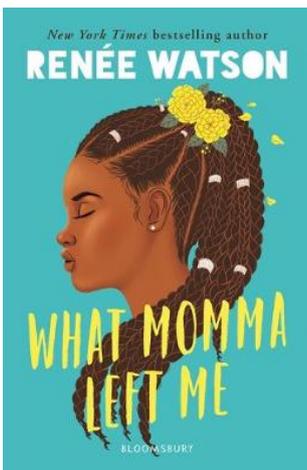
Indeed, this is one of those rare and wonderful picture books that defies age boundaries - a radiant, resonant unforgettable tour de force, as befits its theme.



You Must Be Layla

Author: Yassmin Abdel-Magied **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Boundlessly energetic Layla is over the moon when she's offered a scholarship to a fancy school, but this exciting new chapter of her life gets off to the worst possible start when she stands up to a bully, who happens to be the son of a Very Important Person. Since Layla's wise parents "had taught her to yell in the face of injustice," she won't remain silent when subjected to racism and islamophobia ("Get your towelhead face out of our school. In fact, get out of our COUNTRY. You're not welcome here"), but it's Layla who ends up being suspended. Never one to quit, cut loose or bow out, Layla bounces back by throwing herself into a high profile inter-school robotics invention competition, with many hilarious and moving true-to-life moments along the way. Throughout I adored Layla's openness, her aptitude for shrugging off set-backs, taking suggestions on board and embracing change. As the You Must Be Layla title suggests, she's a one-of-a-kind heroine, and this funny, thought-provoking novel - the first children's book from inspirational Sudanese-born broadcaster, social advocate and mechanical engineer Yassmin Abdel-Magied - is a one-of-a-kind bundle of comedy and compassion.

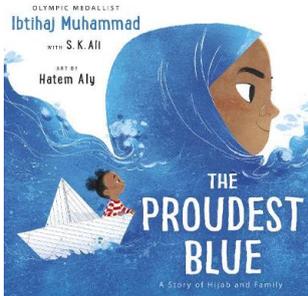


What Momma Left Me

Author: Renee Watson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Renée Watson's remarkable *What Momma Left Me* is a wise and nourishing story rooted in themes of resilience, healing and love. With high school on the horizon, African American Serenity is struggling to piece her life back together following the brutal death of her beloved momma and the loss of her dad. Amidst this sensitively evoked maelstrom, Serenity finds hope in the form of her wholesome grandparents, church (where Grandpa is a pastor), brother Danny and new friend and confidante Maria, a bright beam of light who harbours her own bleak secrets. Serenity handles her grief, set-backs and challenging dilemmas with dignity, her grandparents a constant, calming presence as they impart wisdom, such as this nod to Maya Angelou's 'Still I Rise' poem: "That's why we say 'we rise', children. There have been lots of things that have tried to keep us down. But we've got resilience running through these veins." Empathetically charting Serenity's grief, first romance and growing up (what Serenity does to save Maria from an unsafe situation shows strength and wisdom way beyond her years), this huge-hearted novel comes highly

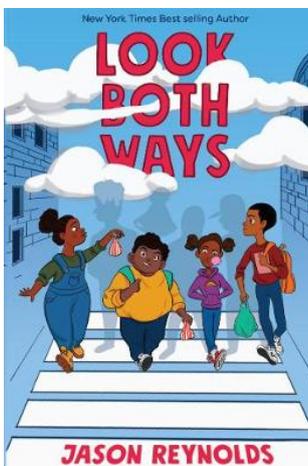
recommended for its honesty, depth and engaging readability, along with Watson's *Piecing Me Together* and *Watch Us Rise* (the latter co-authored with Ellen Hagan).



The Proudest Blue

Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad, S. K. Ali **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/01/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

This collaboration, between the first American Olympic medallist to compete wearing a hijab and an award-winning Muslim YA author, is a beautiful story of sisterly love as well as a thoughtful depiction of the significance of wearing the hijab. Expressed in terms of family pride and self determination rather than in terms of faith, makes the message particularly accessible to all young readers regardless of their background. Faizah is excited for her first day of school, with her light up shoes and new backpack, but even more excited for her older sister, Asiya with her brand-new blue hijab. As Faizah walks to the school she admires her sister who looks like 'a princess' in her blue head scarf. Their mother has prepared the girls with wise words, which they remember as they encounter different reactions, and these are shown on dreamy spreads of Faiza's thoughts and their mother's words. When the kids in the school bully Asiya, she remembers her mother's advice to not carry hurtful words as "they are not yours to keep. They belong only to those who said them" The bullies are cleverly depicted as faceless, raceless, anonymous shadows thus avoiding apportioning blame to any one sector. The vivid colour and expressive illustration are just as powerful as words in conveying the passionate message of how to be proud of one's culture, individuality, and religion and how to stay strong protected by the armour of family love. This is an excellent book about identity and self-confidence for young readers who can see themselves in Asiya or know someone like her and essential for Empathy collections.

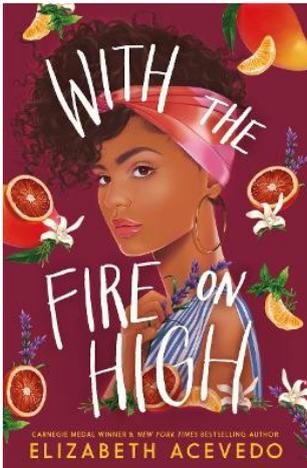


Look Both Ways

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/11/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for CILIP Carnegie Medal 2021 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 Smart, incisive, brimming with the breath of human experience and written with engaging age-appropriate verve, this clever concept ("a tale told in ten blocks") is perfectly executed. For the chorus of kids whose lives play out on these impeccably-written pages, the walk home from school represents a rare time of freedom; a period of limbo between being under the watchful eyes of teachers and parents. Unsupervised, the kids reveal their true selves, most of them dealing with hidden heartache and anxieties alongside goofing around, self-reflecting and navigating their way through Middle School. As always with Jason Reynolds, the characterisation is ingeniously vivid,

with deep insights expressed through, for example, the different ways kids open their lockers. Many of the stories are intensely poignant, such as that of the Low Cuts crew whose bad behaviour is fuelled by a desperate love for their sick parents. The moment it turns out that Bit the hustler is a “son who was scared. A son who loved his mum” is shatteringly powerful. There’s much humour too, such as the laugh-out-loud scene in which smelly Gregory is slathered in VaporRub by friends seeking to beautify him before he visits a girl he’s keen on. Bittersweet, hard-hitting and powerfully perceptive, these pitch-perfect reader-centric stories shine a light on oft-overlooked lives and ring with empathy and authenticity.



With the Fire on High

Author: Elizabeth Acevedo **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 19/09/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

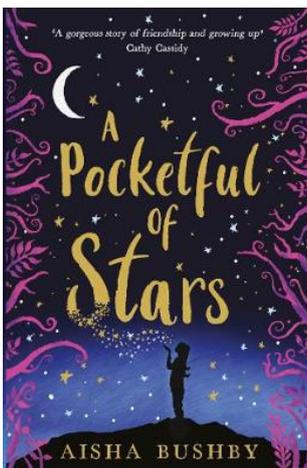
From the one-of-a-kind author of *The Poet X* comes a one-of-a-kind novel suffused in YA’s finest features - friendship, shifting family relationships, fighting to find your voice, romantic passion – and more besides, thanks to the exuberant drive of its teen mom protagonist. Emoni has an extraordinary gift for creative cooking and a complicated home life. Her mom, whose family is “straight-from-the-Carolinas Black” died in childbirth, which caused her grief-stricken Puerto Rican dad to head home to his island. As a result Emoni was raised by his mother, the fabulous ‘Buela. Emoni is used to hearing other people’s problems with her dual heritage (“it’s like I’m some long-division problem folks keep wanting to parcel into pieces, and they don’t hear me when I say: I don’t reduce, homies. The whole of me is Black. The whole of me is whole”), but since falling pregnant in her freshman year she has a new set of struggles to contend with. It’s not easy being a teenage mom while also studying, working and dealing with Babygirl’s judgmental paternal grandmother, but somehow Emoni keeps it all going, finding soulful solace in the kitchen: “I’m happier in the kitchen than anywhere else in the world...my food doesn’t just taste good, it is good – straight up bottled goodness that warms you and makes you feel better about your life”. Enrolling on a culinary arts class makes Emoni even more determined to accomplish her gastronomic career goals, and also brings her heatedly close to new boy Malachi. But with multiple obstacles at every turn, when life reaches boiling point her best friend and family step-up as supporting sous chefs. Spiced with inspirational wisdom (“Taking risks and making choices in spite of fear – it’s what makes our life story compelling” says one of Emoni’s teachers; “The world is a turntable that never stops spinning; as humans we merely chose the tracks we want to sit out and the ones that inspire us to dance,” says Emoni), this luminous novel challenges multiple stereotypes and dances to its own love-infused, inspirational beat.



Some Places More Than Others

Author: Renee Watson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/09/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

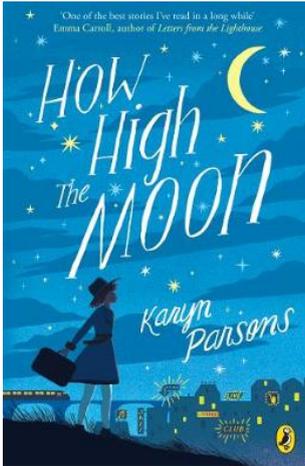
September 2019 Book of the Month Amara knows exactly what she wants for her 12th birthday: to visit her father's family in New York. She understands it will be very different to Beavertown, Oregon, the small town she's grown up in, but can't wait to explore the big city and get to know her family properly. The trip is eye-opening in lots of ways as she learns more about her father and his childhood, about her family, and even her own history. Renée Watson shows us that families are complicated, that it's never too late to change or make amends, and that we can all carry on learning even as we grow up. Quiet, though full of drama, and skilfully told, this is a touching and thought-provoking story with well-drawn, engaging characters; a book that will make a real impact on its reader.



A Pocketful of Stars

Author: Aisha Bushby **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/08/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2020 | Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2020 This assured and beautifully written debut perfectly captures that awkward phase of growing up when you feel left behind and uncertain who you are. Safiya is obsessed with gaming and Studio Ghibli, feels guilty for choosing to live with her father after her parent's amicable divorce and feels her ambitious high achieving mother would prefer the more sophisticated and worldly girls at her school. Their relationship is very strained, both are such strong and complex characters, and a particularly bad argument sadly precedes her mother's hospitalisation. Understandably guilt and anxiety fill her waking moments, and, in her dreams, she finds herself witnessing the turbulent relationship between her mother and grandmother in Kuwait and begins to understand the influences on her mother's character. The line between these game-like dreams, that are so well evoked, and her daily reality is skilfully blended as Safiya tries to find out more and believes she can find the key to saving her mother. As their back story is gradually revealed, Safiya comes to terms with who she is and can finally understand and accept the truth of her mother's love. A deeply moving and satisfying coming of age novel that is highly recommended. The Branford Boase judges said: 'I love the voice, and the story brought me to tears'; 'Safiya is a very well rounded, developed character'; 'a really clever idea, and the story is so well told'; 'she makes the magic credible'; 'I was so impressed by the way the friendships developed'.



How High The Moon

Author: Karyn Parsons **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/03/2019
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

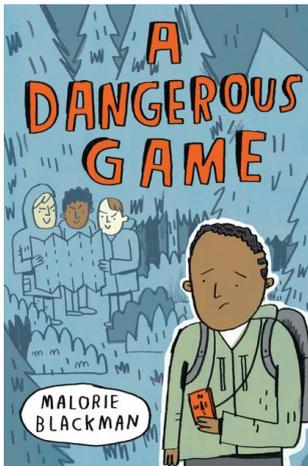
Illuminating, compassionate and beautifully written, this remarkable fact-based debut tells the story of eleven-year-old Ella, who lives in small town South Carolina with her cousin Henry and orphan Myrna, all three of them cared for by Granny and Poppy while Ella's jazz singing mama works in Boston. In South Carolina, "bad things can happen to colored folks", as Myrna describes it, including lynching, and Ella sees Boston as something of a promised land, a place where "coloured folks could go anywhere they wanted", where "fancy was just life" and people "were sophisticated". When a telegram arrives inviting her to stay with Mama, Ella is over the moon but, while non-segregation is an eye-opening wonder, Boston life isn't everything she'd hoped for. With Mama either working at a ship-fitters, working singing in a club, or tired from working, she's lonely, and also unhappy about having to share her Mama with roommate Helen, with whom Mama shares a bed, and she's also frustrated by her mother's evasion of questions about her daddy. Throughout, the novel is subtly brilliant at capturing children's uncomfortable glimpses into unfathomable aspects of adulthood. Then, when Mama gets a singing opportunity, Ella returns to the family who've been missing her like mad and the shocking news that her classmate has been arrested for murdering two white girls. This authentically-voiced, unforgettable tale of identity, injustice, friendship and resilience is as harrowing on the horrifying realities of racism and segregation as it is suffused in love and hope, with Ella, Henry and Myrna's alternating narratives providing powerfully captivating insights into how it might have felt to be a black child growing up in the segregation-era Southern States.



A Very Large Expanse of Sea

Author: Tahereh Mafi **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 18/10/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 4

It's 2002, a year after 9/11, and Shirin has just started at yet another new high school. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments - even the physical violence she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. Shirin drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know her. It terrifies her - they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds - and Shirin has had her guard up against the world for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down. Perfect for fans of the Shatter Me series as well as Angie Thomas's The Hate U Give and Nicola Yoon's The Sun is Also A Star.



A Dangerous Game

Author: Malorie Blackman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/09/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 | Interest Age 8+ Reading Age 8 Former Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman tells a gripping adventure story of a school trip that goes horribly wrong. Sam longs to go on the school trip to the Highlands but he is sure his parents will say no as he has a long term sickness - sickle cell disease - which means he needs to be looked after carefully. When they surprisingly say yes, Sam is thrilled. But his delight soon turn to fear as he realises that the class bullies are planning something that is designed to humiliate him but which will end up putting them all at risk. How Sam deals with the bullies, including showing incredible courage in rescuing one from real danger, and how he deals with his own illness with another kind of bravery is all brilliantly captured in Malorie Blackman's vivid drama.

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

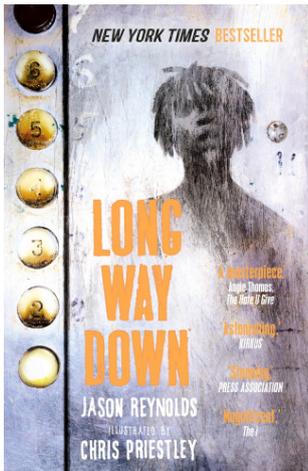


THE NO.1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
ANGIE THOMAS

The Hate U Give

Author: Angie Thomas **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

October 2018 Debut of the Month | Awarded the Amnesty CILIP Honour commendation from the Carnegie shortlist 2018 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2018 | One of Our Books of the Year 2017 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award | In a Nutshell: Fighting for Justice | Black Lives Matter | Stunning, vital wake-up call of a novel about racism, social inequality and not giving up told through the eyes of an incredible, unforgettable sixteen-year-old. Starr straddles two very different worlds. She has one foot in Garden Heights, a rough neighbourhood ruled by gangs, guns and dealers, and the other in an exclusive school with an overwhelmingly wealthy white student population. One night she's at a party when gunshots are fired and Khalil, her friend since childhood, takes her to his car for safety. Khalil is unarmed and poses no threat, but he's shot dead by an officer right in front of her. It will take a lot of courage to speak to the police, and to face the media who choose to highlight that Khalil was a "suspected drug dealer", while omitting to mention that he was unarmed. But, with their neighbourhood under curfew and a tank on the streets, Starr risks going public. Danger escalates as the hearing approaches (and beyond), but Starr isn't about to give up fighting for Khalil, and for what's right. Alongside the intense struggles and conflicts faced by Starr's family and community, there are some truly heart-melting moments between Starr and her white boyfriend Chris (their shared love of the Fresh Prince of Bel Air is super cute), and also between Starr and her parents. Complex, gripping, stirring and so, so important - I can't recommend this remarkable debut enough.



Long Way Down

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

Winner of UKLA Shortlist Book Awards 2019 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019 Will is only fifteen but he's experienced more violence and loss than most people might in an entire lifetime. His big brother Shawn was recently shot dead, right in front of him, but as "everybody knows", "gunshots make everybody/deaf and blind especially/when they make somebody/dead". While his mom mourns, "sobbing into her palms", Will knows what he has to do. He must follow the three rules: No crying. No snitching. Revenge. Armed with Shawn's gun, Will heads down six floors in an elevator on his revenge mission, thinking he knows exactly who he's going after. When the "spooky ass" elevator stops at each floor and ghosts from the past step into the "vertical coffin", doubts set in as Will is presented with more facts and finally comes face to face with some big choices (do some rules need to be broken? Does he want out of the cycle?), and more besides. The writing is crisp, clever and dazzlingly compact, with a whole family history and personally-charged societal issues conveyed with powerful precision. The line and page breaks are perfectly constructed, words and phrases frequently have multiple meanings, and Chris Priestley's raw and resonant illustrations are hauntingly powerful.

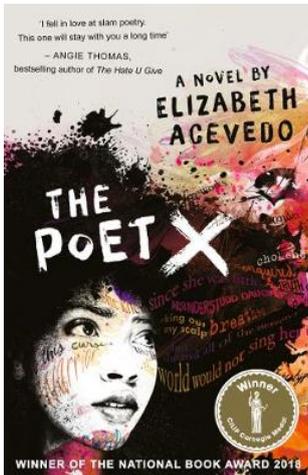


Dear Martin

Author: Nic Stone **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/05/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

May 2018 Debut of the Month | One of our 2018 Books of the Year Picture this. You're an honors student with a top university in your sights. You work hard, and you follow your mother's advice to always put your best foot forward. So how come, when you help a friend in need, you're man-handled by the police and arrested? How come the cops tell you that they "know your kind...Just couldn't resist the pretty white girl who's locked her keys in her car, could ya?" As Yale-bound African American Justyce knows only too well, "things aren't as equal as folks say they are". At every turn he's caught between worlds: a white classmate attributes his success to positive discrimination, while he's accused of being a race traitor by some of his black peers. He airs this elemental conundrum with SJ, his debate partner: "white people hold most positions of authority in this country. How do I deal with the fact that I DO need them to get ahead without feeling like I'm turning my back on my own people?" And what's he supposed to do when he falls for SJ and his mama's dead against him dating a white girl? As the compelling, gut-wrenching story unfolds, Justyce writes a journal to Dr Martin Luther King Jr. to work through his thoughts, vent his frustrations and to ask what Dr King would do in his situation. Then a tragedy strikes that threatens to disarm Justyce's pledge to do as Martin would do.

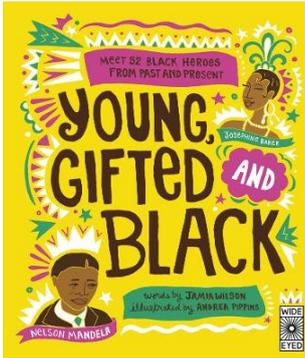
Important, timely and unforgettable, this powerful exposé of racism, injustice and the injuriousness of profiling articulates the persistent everyday battles faced by thousands of kids in Justyce's shoes with scorching lucidity. Quite simply, everyone must read this poignant punch-packer of a debut.



The Poet X

Author: Elizabeth Acevedo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/05/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

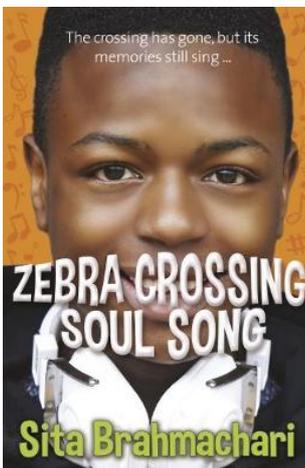
Winner for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019 | Highly Commended in the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | Winner of the 2018 National Book Award Xiomara Batista is a Harlem teenager whose parents moved to the US from the Dominican Republic. She has plenty of thoughts, plenty to say, but she's been rendered voiceless by her domineering mother, by religion, and by the boys and men who objectify her body. She gets "all this attention from guys/but it's like a sancocho of emotions... partly flattered they think I'm attractive, partly scared they're only interested in my ass and boobs". Such is the experience of many young women, but for Xiomara this is exacerbated by racism and her judgmental religious community, and powerfully expressed in her inimitable narrative voice. Talking of which, through the sexual insults, and despite her mother's meting of cruel punishments, Xiomara does find her voice. She keeps a secret notebook of poems, and dreams of joining a slam poetry club. And she finds love too, with Trinidad-born Aman, a compassionate young man with family heartache of his own. Xiomara's descriptions of their burgeoning relationship are stunning, evoking first love and passion in all its visceral beauty. Somehow, Xiomara pulls herself free from a mire of obstacles. She stands tall, she burns bright - a wondrously authentic character who finds her own faith through writing poetry. Highly recommended for fans of Nicola Yoon, Angie Thomas and Sarah Crossan, this is a dazzlingly affecting feat.



Young, Gifted and Black

Author: Jamia Wilson **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/02/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

This inspiring, illuminating, stylishly accessible anthology invites young readers to discover and celebrate phenomenal forebears and contemporary catalysts, while encouraging them to blaze their own inimitable trails. Taking its name from a Nina Simone song, and written as “a love letter to our ancestors, and to the next generation of black changemakers,” this exuberantly illustrated book presents a plethora of outstanding individuals who’ve realised amazing achievements in their respective fields. Among the fifty-two figures we meet are household names from contemporary culture (Michelle and Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Beyoncé, for example), and hugely important historical heroes and heroines. While some will be familiar – Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, and Rosa Parks, for example – lesser-known pioneers are also presented, among them Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmental activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel in space. In their introduction, the author and illustrator issue an emboldening statement about the importance of representation – “all children deserve to see themselves represented positively in stories”. And, with such a dazzling diversity of talents portrayed here (from writers, musicians, dancers and visual artists, to sports people, scientists and politicians), this book has much to inspire a real range of young readers.



Zebra Crossing Soul Song

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

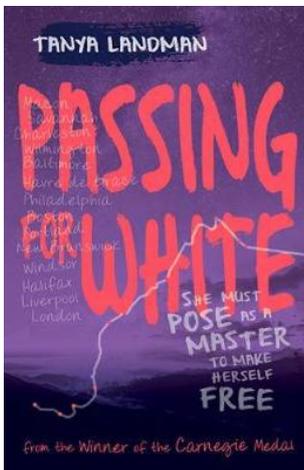
February 2018 Book of the Month The story of a young man and the special relationship he forms with the lollipop man who once saved his life, Zebra Crossing Soul Song is an original and touching coming of age story, full of insight and set to a playlist of songs that will have all readers swaying in time to its music. Lenny is eighteen and resitting his psychology A level; revising episodic memory sets him thinking about his friend Otis, and how their conversations over the years at Otis’s zebra crossing have left ideas and music imprinted on his mind, more indelibly even than those black and white marks on the road. It’s a relationship strong enough to endure through the different pressures on both of them. Scattered with song lyrics, and seeded with truths, this memorable and absorbing story moved me to tears. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 13+



A Change Is Gonna Come

Author: Various **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/08/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

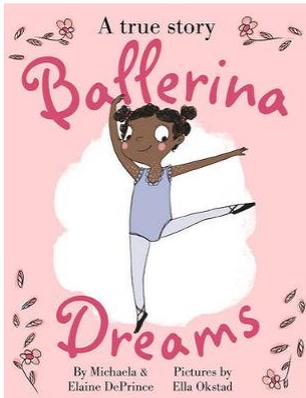
WINNER OF THE YA BOOK PRIZE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2018 Not only exciting, consistently good short stories on the theme of change but authored by established and debut BAME authors, allowing every young adult to see themselves as writers.



Passing for White

Author: Tanya Landman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/05/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

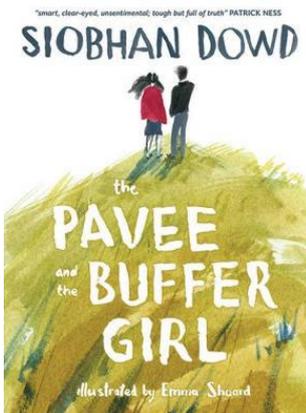
Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award | Interest Age Teen Reading Age 8 A story of a daring escape made by two slaves, a young woman and her husband, provides the inspiration for Tanya Landman's story. Rosa and Benjamin meet, fall in love and marry but because they are slaves, their lives are not their own. When Rosa discovers she is pregnant - and confesses to her husband that the child might be her master's - they decide to run. Rosa is so fair skinned that even Benjamin mistook her for a white at first, so they decide to disguise themselves as a white master and his 'boy'. Their escape is full of drama and tension, but what will shock young readers is the casual brutality and hateful self-justification of the white slave owners Rosa encounters. It's a story that makes you doubt humanity, while also celebrating individual courage and resilience. For more books on this theme head over to our sister site, LoveReading4Schools topic list - The Slave Trade



Ballerina Dreams

Author: Michaela DePrince, Elaine DePrince **Format:** Paperback
Release Date: 06/04/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

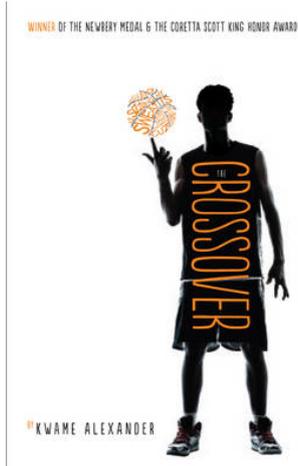
This charming little book opens with a scene any young dancer dreams of: a girl peeking through the curtains before flying onto the stage, a ballerina. The journey taken by that young ballerina to make that entrance is particularly inspiring however: she is Michaela DePrince, and the book describes simply and without embellishment how she came from an orphanage in Sierra Leone to become one of the world's best dancers. It's a story of hope, courage, love and persistence, filled with enough dance detail to satisfy tutu-wearing youngsters while gently reminding them anyone's dreams can come true with hard work and practice. Ella Okstad's illustrations of Michaela and her fellow little dancers are absolutely gorgeous.



The Pavee and the Buffer Girl

Author: Siobhan Dowd **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/03/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

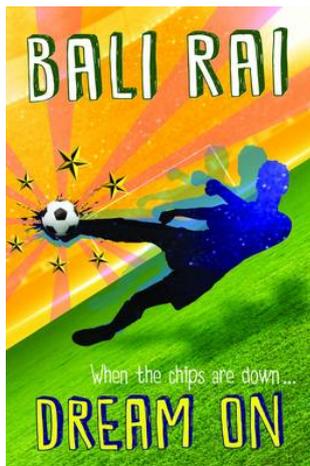
Siobhan Dowd's short story first appeared in an anthology published in 2004. It has lost none of its power to move and the sheer depth and emotion packed into this spare narrative is still breath-taking. The book tells the story of Jim, a young Traveller boy, his experiences at the Buffer school (Buffer is what Travellers call non-Travellers) and his developing friendship with a girl called Kit. The story, told through Jim's eyes, is vivid, affecting and, though it has more than its share of sadness, ultimately uplifting. Emma Shoard's equally sensitive and powerful ink and wash illustrations are the perfect accompaniment to the text and this is a book to treasure. ~ Andrea Reece Siobhan Dowd was a passionate defender of human rights and was particularly interested in Traveller communities and the experiences of Traveller young people. She said of her writing: "The protagonists in my stories aren't human rights heroes in the conventional sense. They are ordinary people living in England and Ireland who find extraordinary ways to overcome the difficulties in their lives and for me that's the essence of any good story: it's where the ordinary meets the extraordinary." Emma Shoard says, "It's been wonderful to find out about the lives of Irish Travellers through Siobhan's story and her characters. I've loved bringing them to life through my illustrations and hope that readers will fall for Jim and Kit the way I have."



The Crossover

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/10/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award 'The Crossover' is original and absolutely stunning, both visually and emotionally, it's also an award winner, and deserves to be. First published in the United States in 2014 and described perfectly as a novel-in-verse, this is a story about basketball playing twins, Josh and Jordan. I initially wondered, as I looked at the visual impact of the first page, how easy it would be to read, as the words themselves slant and grow and fill the page with attitude. The answer is that this is a remarkably beautiful and accessible read, at times I even read out loud, the sounds resonating and rolling from the page. This style really encourages feeling and understanding to grow, and before I knew it I was fully immersed in the story and letting the words ebb and flow through my mind. Fresh, funny and heart achingly sad, 'The Crossover' is a dynamic, vital and gripping story, that I highly and truly recommend.

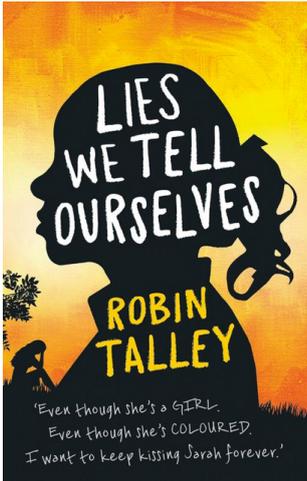


Dream on

Author: Bali Rai **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/11/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Interest Age Teen Reading Age 8 Baljit - Jit to his school friends - helps out in his father's chippy but dreams of playing football in the Premier League. When he's given a chance to take part in open trials for under-16s in front of scouts for the big teams, he knows he has to be there, even though it will mean lying to his mum and dad. This feel-good story successfully mixes drama, comedy and even a bit of romance (Jit ends up with the girl of his dreams as well as invites to attend second trials at Arsenal and Liverpool), while the descriptions of Jit's home life, and relationships with his friends, are particularly warm and satisfying. ~ Andrea Reece Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 12+ Barrington Stoke is the foremost publisher of dyslexia friendly books and those for reluctant readers. Here on Lovereading4kids we are constantly selecting new titles and refreshing our special dyslexia friendly category. Click here to view our current selection which is broken down by age range.

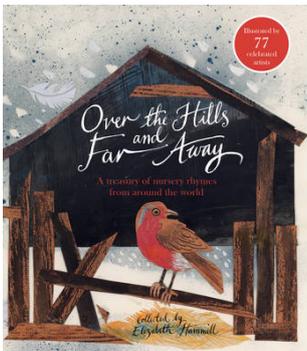
..... Read a special Q&A with Bali Rai on his book, Game On.



Lies We Tell Ourselves

Author: Robin Talley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/10/2014
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

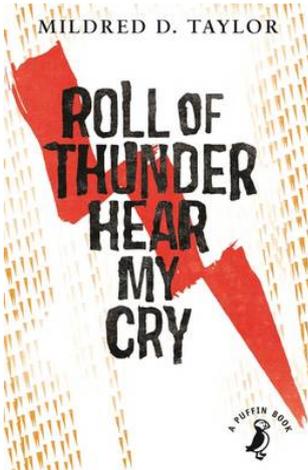
Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016. Fascinating, commanding and stimulating; this work of fiction is steeped in the history of the American school integration struggle in the late 1950's. The author has clearly done her research and written a provocative and yet somehow irresistibly beautiful novel. Talley picks you up and hurls you down in the middle of the brutal pack mentality, she spins you around, then gently slips hope and love inbetween the clamour and hatred. Sarah and Linda feel substantial and real; their dreams and fears, writhe and pulse from the pages. This is so thought-provoking it almost hurts to read it, yet every word is needed, is necessary and consequently this is a novel that lingers long after you've finished it.



Over the Hills and Far Away A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes from Around the World

Author: Elizabeth Hammill **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/10/2014

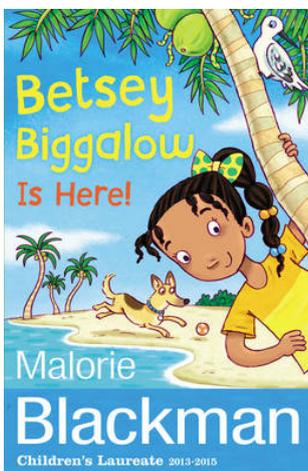
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A fine collection of poems and rhymes from all over the world, collected together by Elizabeth Hammill, renowned for her support and expertise in the world of children's literature. A host of fantastic illustrators including Axel Scheffler, Robert Ingpen and Shirley Hughes have donated their work to support Seven Stories, a national archive of British authors and illustrators.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Author: Mildred D. Taylor **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

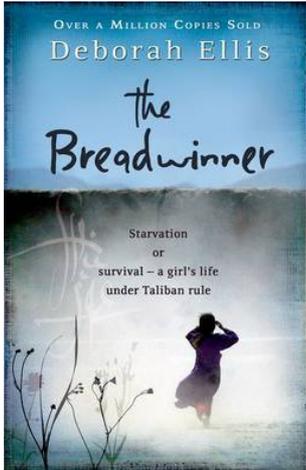
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is the classic story of a girl growing up in the deep South. _____ Puffin Fact! After graduating from the University of Toledo, Mildred D. Taylor spent two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps, which she described as 'the happiest years' in her adult life. Download more Puffin Facts here! _____ Dear readers, dreamers and adventurers, Ever wanted a friend who could take you to magical realms, talk to animals or help you survive a shipwreck? Well, you'll find them all in the PUFFIN BOOK collection. A PUFFIN BOOK will stay with you forever. Maybe you'll read it again and again, or perhaps years from now you'll suddenly remember the moment it made you laugh or cry or simply see things differently. Adventurers big and small, rebels out to change their world, even a mouse with a dream and a spider who can spell - these are the characters who make stories that last a lifetime. Whether you love animal tales, war stories or want to know what it was like growing up in a different time and place, the A PUFFIN BOOK collection has a story for you - you just need to decide where you want to go next... We want to know which is your favourite. Tell us or tweet a photo of your old beloved copy - and we might just send you a new A PUFFIN BOOK so you can pass the story on. Love - PUFFIN @puffinbooks #shareapuffinbook



Betsey Biggalow is Here!

Author: Malorie Blackman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/05/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

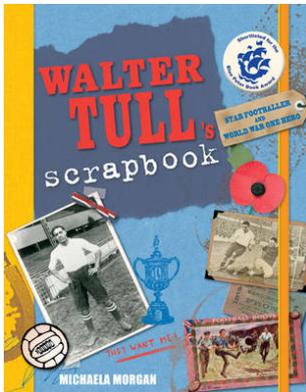
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Join Betsey on four short, sun-filled adventures as she learns you don't have to be big to make a big difference.



The Breadwinner

Author: Deborah Ellis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/03/2014
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

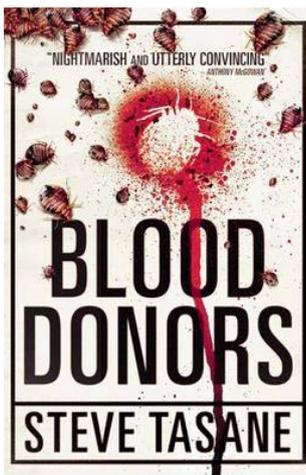
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A compelling and engrossing story about a girl living in war-torn Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Parvana must disguise herself as a boy to save her mother and sisters from starvation. Every day, it is a fight for survival.



Walter Tull's Scrapbook

Author: Michaela Morgan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/11/2013
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2013 - Best Book with Facts In personal jottings, photos and pictures, this scrapbook brings alive a pioneering black footballer and British officer in the First World War who lived outside the limitations of his age - from Walter's childhood in an orphanage through his footballing years at Spurs and Northampton to the Western Front, highlighting the Christmas Day Truce of 1914, Walter's officer training - pipe, moustache and all! - ending with his death on the Somme, his memorials and his legacy.

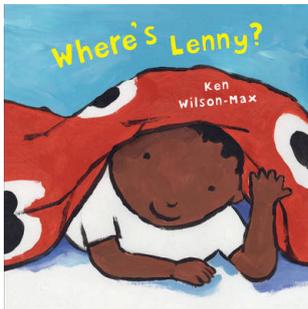


Blood Donors

Author: Steve Tasane **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/10/2013
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. October 2013 Debut of the Month Features an edgy, funny, scary mash-up of urban horror and social realism: for fans of The Misfits and Attack the Block!, with hints of Ian Banks' coming-of-age classic The Wasp Factory. Narrated entirely in Marshall's street voice and set in a multicultural community on a mission to crush the stereotype; a pacy, pulsing read to make you squirm and scratch, with Mega-bugs as a subtext for the social parasites of poverty and crime; and Pitter-pat. Pitter-pat. Pitter-pat. Itchy yet? In addition to our Lovereading expert opinion for Blood Donors a small number of readers were lucky enough to be invited to review this title. Here's a taster....'an exciting, fright-filled, adrenaline-filled book. With funny, convincing characters and a terrifying plot, Blood Donors is the perfect book for horror lovers.' Scroll down to read

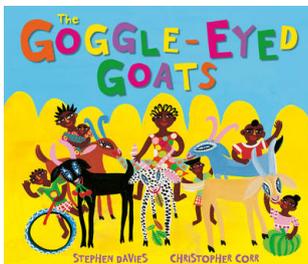
more reviews...



Where's Lenny?

Author: Ken Wilson-Max **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/06/2013

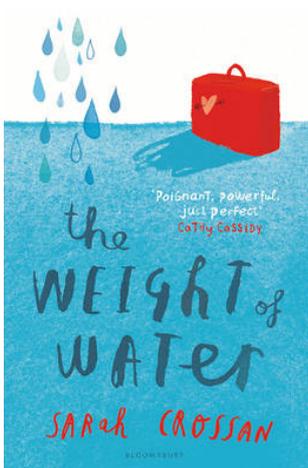
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. An ideal first picture book by an award-winning author/illustrator in which Lenny and his dad have a game of hide and seek in the house, enjoying fun and games together.



The Goggle-Eyed Goats

Author: Stephen Davies **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2013 **Year Groups:** Early Years

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Joyful and dotty, how Old Al Haji Amadu tries to get rid of his five naughty goggle-eyed goats - and fails - is the ultimate triumph of pester power. Al Haji's three wives object violently to the five goggle-eyed goats who chew up everything they can get their teeth into, so, ignoring protests from his children, Ali Haji takes them off to market... But Ali Haji hasn't bargained with just how much his children want the goats to stay... Strikingly bold and vibrant illustrations bring the market place in Timbuktu vividly to life.

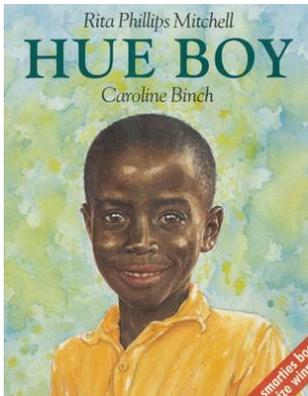


The Weight of Water

Author: Sarah Crossan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/01/2013 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2013 The Weight of Water is a startlingly original piece of fiction written in verse; most simply a brilliant coming of age story. First love, friendship and quiet courage combine in this spare and beautiful story that will leave you sad, happy and wanting more from this fantastic new voice in children's fiction. It tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Moving, unsentimental and utterly page-turning, we meet and share the experiences of a remarkable 12 year old girl who shows us how quiet courage prevails. A truly special and remarkable read that should not be missed and, Bloomsbury the publisher has done a wonderful job on the book itself - the best things come in small packages - and this is

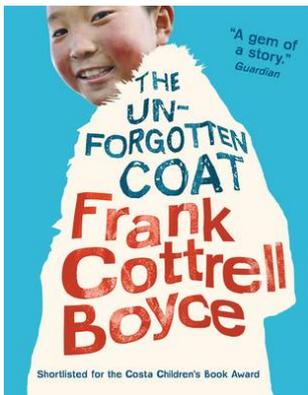
absolutely no exception, so buy the physical book and not the ebook.



Hue Boy

Author: Rita Phillips Mitchell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/11/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

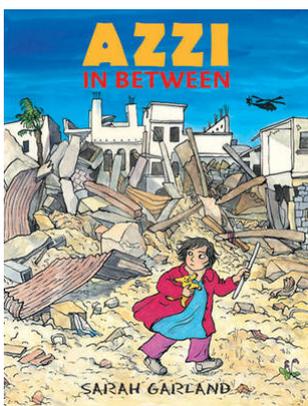
A very big welcome to this beautiful new edition of an award-winning title which tells exactly what very special ingredient is needed to make Hue Boy grow. Smaller than all his friends, Hue Boy just doesn't seem to grow despite everything that his mother does to help him. She feeds him well, encourages him to exercise, and even takes him to both the doctor and the Wise Man of the village to see if either can be of help. But then Hue's dad comes home. Is that what is needed to make Hue grow?



The Unforgotten Coat

Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/10/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

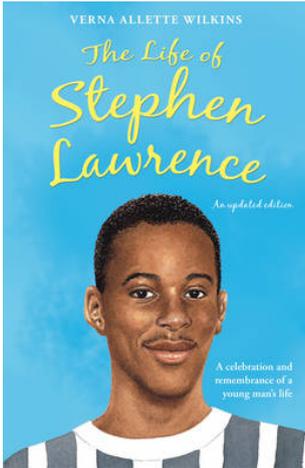
Winner of 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize Based on a true story this is an unforgettable and moving account of one girl's vivid memories of two Mongolian brothers briefly at her school.



Azzi in Between

Author: Sarah Garland **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 18/06/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

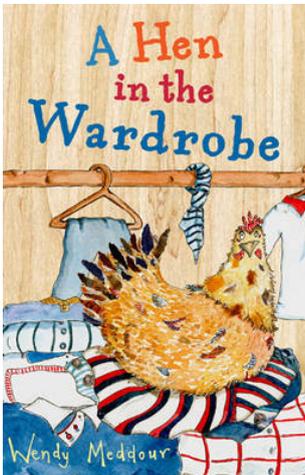
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Winner of the inaugural Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2013. A haunting story of a family's flight from danger to a new life in a new country. Drawing on her own experience of working among refugee families, renowned author and illustrator Sarah Garland tells, with tenderness and humour, an exciting adventure story to be enjoyed by readers of all ages.



The Life of Stephen Lawrence

Author: Verna Allette Wilkins **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/04/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Full of life and potential, Stephen Lawrence was a boy with huge hopes for the future. Murdered in 1993, the book looks at prejudice, injustice and a family's fight to uncover the truth.



A Hen in the Wardrobe

Author: Wendy Meddour **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/02/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for The Branford Boase Award 2013 | One of Julia Eccleshare's Stand-out Children's Book of the Year 2012 | Winner of the 2010 Islamic Foundation International Writing Competition, (8-11 category) | Winner of The John C Laurence Award (for writing that improves relations between the races) | Shortlisted for the Muslim Writer's Award 2011. Witty and warm-hearted, this is a delightful family story spiced with adventure.

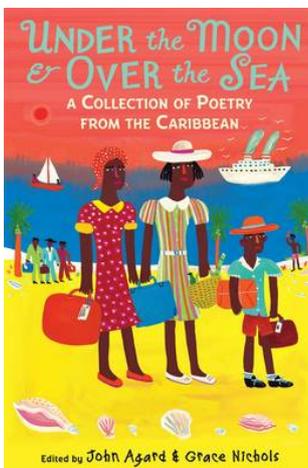
Everything is distinctly not normal in Ramzi's house. While mum's away studying Domes of the East for her architecture course, dad starts waking in the night to do unusual things such as chasing a hen in Ramzi's wardrobe and trying to catch frogs in the pantry. The truth is, dad's homesick for his village in Algeria. Soon Ramzi is off on a great trip but will he be able to find the help he needs to get dad back to normal?



Little Leap Forward

Author: Guo Yue, Clare Farrow **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

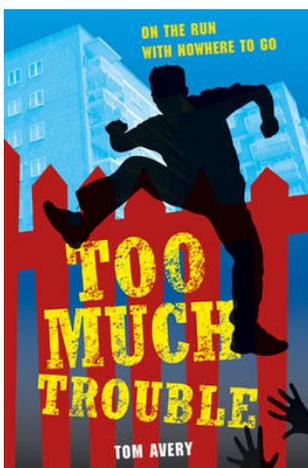
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A fascinating snapshot of how totally life changed in Beijing for a little boy, Little Leap Forward, his family and his friends when Chairman Mao came to power. The son of a musician, Little Leap Forward's life revolves around his love of music, especially the old Chinese music his father used to love. But when the Red Guards spread throughout Beijing, enjoying the old pleasures becomes dangerous. Beautifully illustrated and produced in an attractive hardback.



Under the Moon & Over the Sea: A Collection of Poetry from the Caribbean

Author: John Agard, Grace Nichols **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

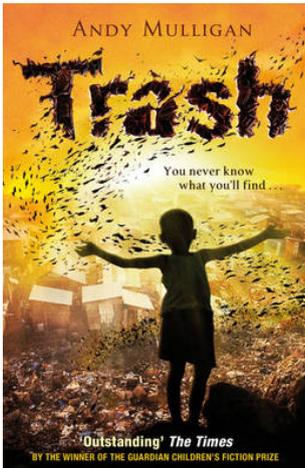
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A lyrical and lively collection of poetry that captures the sights, sounds, tastes and tales of the Caribbean and its people.



Too Much Trouble

Author: Tom Avery **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/06/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

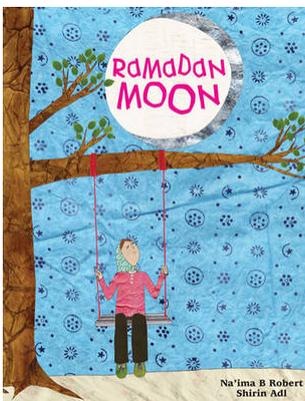
Winner of the 2010 Frances Lincoln / Seven Stories Diverse Voices Children's Book Award. Click [here](#) to read author and teacher Tom Avery's Q&A with one of the judges, Geraldine Brennan. This prize-winning story will grab readers' attention from the opening moments and hold them spell-bound from then on. When Emmanuel and Prince are sent to England to live with their uncle, Emmanuel is put in charge. But, when you are only 12 it's hard to do everything for yourself and your younger brother. Especially, it's hard not attract any attention. When things go wrong and the boys go on the run, they find themselves in real danger as part of a thieving gang. Debut novelist Tom Avery shines real insight on how different some children's lives are in this gripping and deeply moving story. Click [here](#) to see the previous winner of the Diverse Voices award, Takeshita Demons.



Trash

Author: Andy Mulligan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 31/03/2011
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

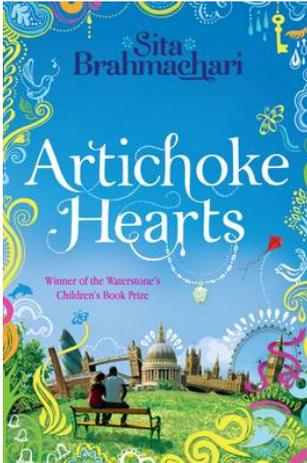
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Shortlisted for the 2012 Carnegie Medal. The Judges said: A vivid and emotionally powerful story told through some great switches of authentic narrative voice, giving the perfect marriage of character and plot as the three children tell their stories. Though there are scenes that are visceral and shocking, humour is always present too, along with a strong sense of community and the sustaining nature of friendship. Shortlisted for the prestigious Sheffield Children's Book Award 2011. Headlong and heart-stopping, this is an adventure you just can't put down. From the squalor of a rubbish dump to the grandeur of some of the finest houses in the city, this is a thrilling adventure. Three boys who live on a dump and spend their lives sorting rubbish find something so precious, so valuable and so wanted by someone else that their whole lives are turned upside down. How can they keep their find - and themselves safe? From the pathos of deprivation to the hope of a miracle this is a story full of emotion as well as vivid drama.



Ramadan Moon

Author: Na'ima B. Robert **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2011
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

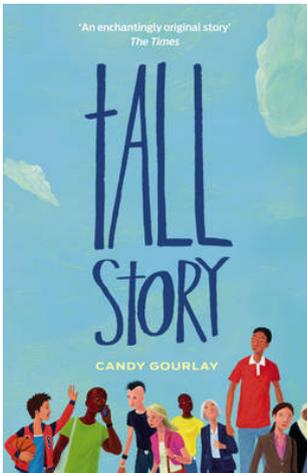
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A joyful evocation of the great Muslim festival of Ramadan and Id for children. Written and illustrated by Muslims, this is a book for all children who celebrate Ramadan and those in the wider communities who want to understand why this is such a special experience for Muslims.



Artichoke Hearts

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

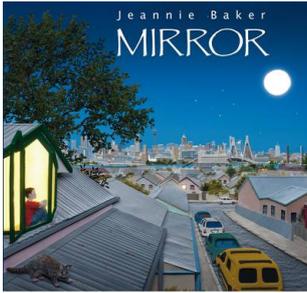
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2011. A welter of emotions engulf Mira in this touching pre-teen story about secrets and how to keep them and share them. Strongly set in a busy family, Mira's life is full of the ups and downs of family, friends and school; most particularly there is sadness in knowing that her beloved grandmother is dying and happiness as her interest in a mysterious boy in her class blossoms. Mira tells her story with appealing directness. ~ Julia Eccleshare



Tall Story

Author: Candy Gourlay **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

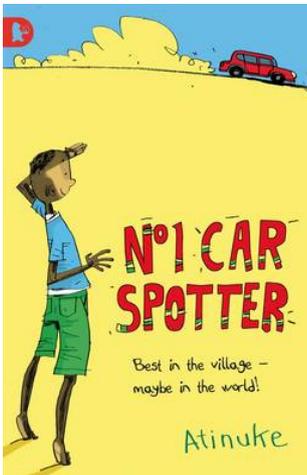
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2011. Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2011: Favourite Story. This is a debut novel packed with warmth, humour and quirkiness that will have you in fits of laughter one minute and in tears the next as the author explores a touching sibling relationship and the clash of two very different cultures. Andi is short. And she has lots of wishes. She wishes she could play on the school basketball team, she wishes for her own bedroom, but most of all she wishes that her long lost half brother, Bernardo, could come and live in London, where he belongs. Then Andi's biggest wish comes true and she's minutes away from becoming someone's little sister. As she waits anxiously for Bernardo to arrive from the Philippines, she hopes he'll turn out to be tall and just as mad as she is about basketball. When he finally arrives, he's tall all right. But he's not just tall ...he's a GIANT. Titles shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2011: I am the Blade Out of Shadows Tall Story The Crowfield Curse Unhooking the Moon When I was Joe



Mirror

Author: Jeannie Baker **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/11/2010
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

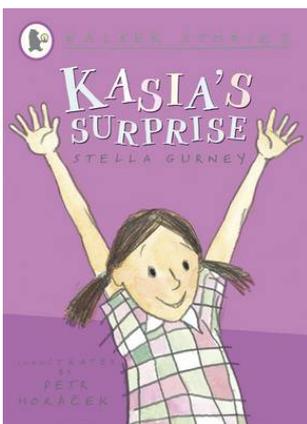
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A two-in-one picture book that comprises two stories designed to be read simultaneously - one from the left, the other from the right. It lets you experience the lives of two little boys - one from an urban family in Sydney, Australia, the other from Morocco. A powerful book, Mirror illustrates how our lives reflect each other and that we are all, even in some small way, connected.



The No. 1 Car Spotter

Author: Atinuke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2010 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Oluwalase Babatunde Benson is Number 1. He's the Number 1 car spotter in his village. The Number 1 car spotter in the world. The start of an exciting new series about the irresistible Number 1, whose hobby is car spotting but who is good at solving all sorts of problems for his village.



Kasia's Surprise

Author: Stella Gurney **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/07/2010
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

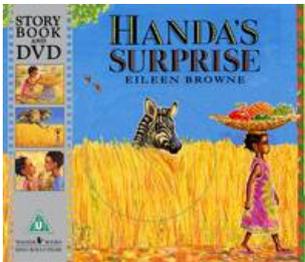
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. This is a heartwarming story about a feisty young Polish girl determined to be unhappy in her new life in England - but who finds herself settling in despite herself.



Moonfleece

Author: Philip Ridley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2010
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Moonfleece is an intense and thrilling exploration of memory and identity, and is the most directly political play to date by leading playwright Philip Ridley. Set in an abandoned council flat, Moonfleece centres on a young, right-wing activist forced to reassess his personal and political beliefs.



Handa's Surprise

Author: Eileen Browne **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/08/2009
Year Groups: Early Years

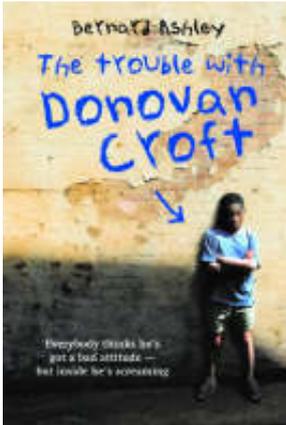
This is a bestselling picture book - brought to life with an animated DVD! A Handa puts seven delicious fruits in a basket for her friend Akeyo. Which fruit will Akeyo like best, she wonders. After a long walk to the next village, the answer turns out to be a big surprise! Walker Books have collaborated with King Rollo Films to create this gently animated DVD packaged together with the classic picture book. Read by Adjoa Andoh (Casualty and Doctor Who), with specially composed music, this is an innovative combination that will delight and entertain young viewers again and again. Fun and engaging, this innovative set will help develop reading skills and is ideal for sharing at home or in the classroom.



Leon and Bob

Author: Simon James **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2008
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

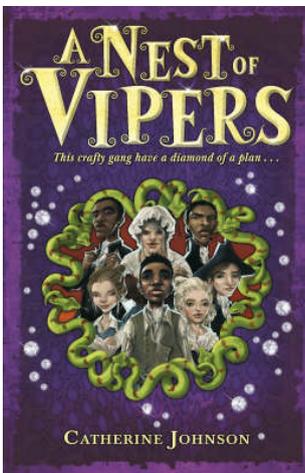
An urban tale about a boy and his imaginary friend. Bob is Leon's best friend. He shares Leon's room. Everywhere Leon goes, Bob goes too. Then one day a boy moves in next door. But when Leon goes to ask his new neighbour to go to the park with him, he discovers Bob has gone.



The Trouble with Donovan Croft

Author: Bernard Ashley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/06/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

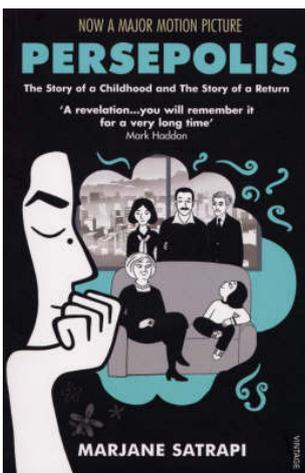
When Keith gets a new foster brother, he's not too happy about it. But when this boy won't talk to him, Keith realizes that things are going to be much harder than he originally thought. And it's not just Keith who Donovan won't speak to - he won't speak to anybody at all. The other kids at school take Donovan's silence to be a sign of a bad attitude and start to bully him. Keith knows he has to stick up for him, but that means the bullies are just going to pick on him too ...



A Nest of Vipers

Author: Catherine Johnson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/04/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. The youngest member of a collective of pick pockets and con-artists in 18 Century London, Cato Hopkins appears at risk of paying penance with his life...



Persepolis I and II

Author: Marjane Satrapi **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/03/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

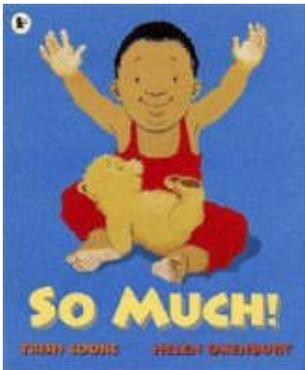
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. March 2012 Guest Editor Sally Nicholls says: "I am a big fan of books which write about dark subjects with lightness and humour. Marjane Satrapi's story of growing up in Iran after the Iranian Revolution is funny, wise, and very real. The child Marjane is an admirable character, and the humour in her story makes the events surrounding it all the more horrifying."



Journey To Jo'burg

Author: Beverly Naidoo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

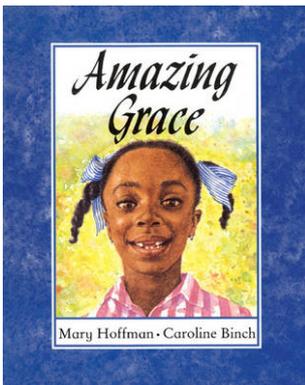
When it was originally published in 1985 Beverley Naidoo's classic was a contemporary story; now it's a piece of history but no less powerful or important. It's the story of two black children who set off from their remote village to search for their mother and bring her home after their baby sister falls desperately ill. Setting off on foot on the long hot road to Jo'burg, Naledi and Tiro have no idea what's in store for them as they cross the dangerous landscape of Apartheid. Written simply, to be accessible to those as young as 8, this universal story of children whose spirit won't let injustice crush them continues to move all who read it. ~ Andrea Reece



So Much

Author: Trish Cooke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2008

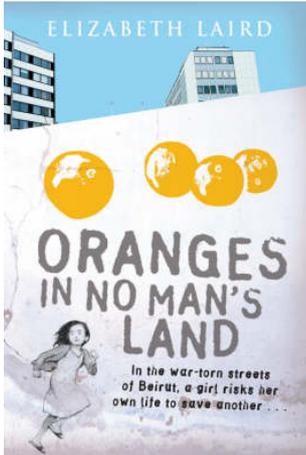
Mum and the baby are at home, doing nothing spectacular, when the doorbell rings. It's Aunt Biba, and she wants to play with the baby so much. Then Uncle Didi comes, followed by practically the whole family, and they all want to hug and play with baby.



Amazing Grace

Author: Mary Hoffman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/10/2007 **Year Groups:** Early Years

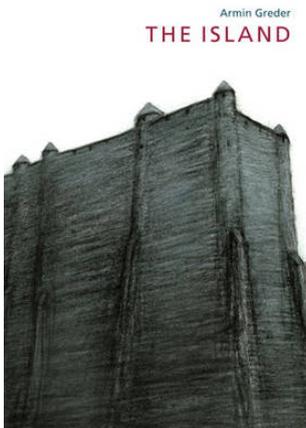
Grace loves to act out stories. Sometimes she plays the leading part, sometimes she is 'a cast of thousands.' When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black...But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it...



Oranges In No Man's Land

Author: Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/08/2007 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

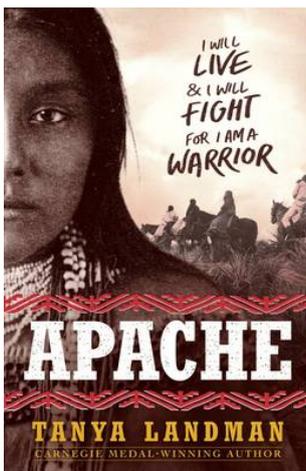
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A gripping story of a ten-year-old girl who risks death to make a life-saving dash through war-torn Beirut. It's a quite remarkable tale of courage and hope in a country that has seen more than its fair share of bloodshed.



The Island

Author: Armin Greder **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/08/2007 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

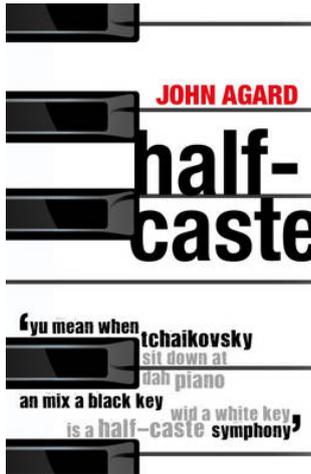
The Island is an astonishing and powerful picture book about refugees, xenophobia, multiculturalism, social politics and human rights. It tackles big themes in subtle ways with a fable-like text and stunning artwork that will provoke discussion for upper primary and secondary school levels about issues that remain so much a part of our national discourse.



Apache

Author: Tanya Landman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2007 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

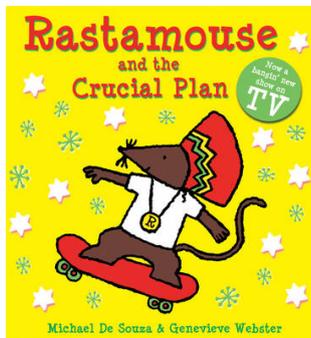
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Shortlisted for the prestigious 2008 Carnegie. An inspiring story of survival against a background of bloodshed. The fourteen year old Apache girl who narrates the story tells of her fight for her land, her tribe - and her life! The ways of the Apache are vividly brought to life. Shortlisted for two prestigious awards, the Carnegie Medal and the Booktrust Teenage Prize 2008. The winner of the latter will be announced on 18th November. Be sure to check out Tanya Landman's second novel Two Words.



Half-Caste and Other Poems

Author: John Agard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/09/2005
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

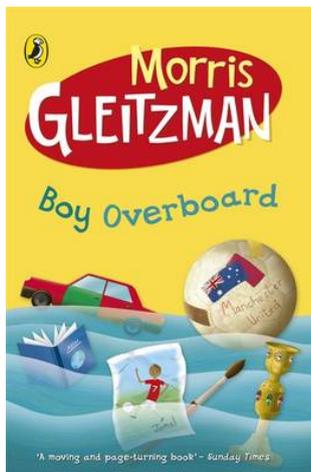
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. One of the the UK's top performance poets explores issues of race and identity in this classic collection.



Rastamouse and the Crucial Plan

Author: Michael De Souza **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/12/2004
Year Groups: Early Years

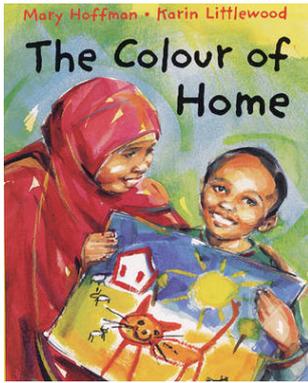
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A cheeky, cheese-filled tale about super bad thief Bandalulu who has stolen all the cheese from Mouseland.



Boy Overboard

Author: Morris Gleitzman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/08/2003
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

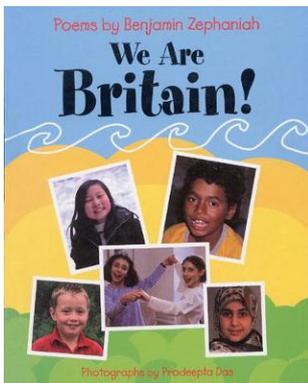
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Jamal and sister Bibi want to lead Australia to victory in the World Cup, but that entails a journey from their homeland, Afghanistan where their family has upset the authorities, and a lengthy voyage overseas.



The Colour of Home

Author: Mary Hoffman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/03/2003
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

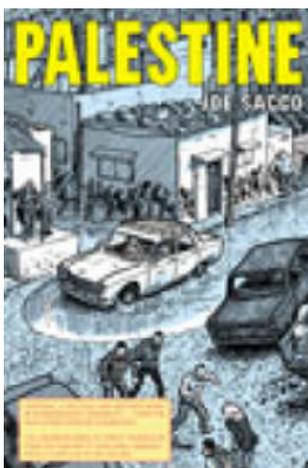
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK.



We Are Britain!

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/02/2003
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

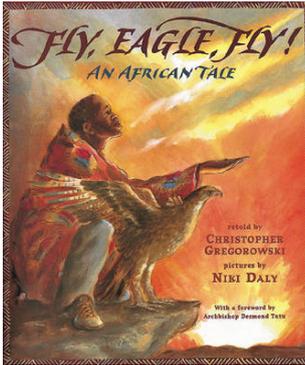
A new poetry collection from renowned performance poet Benjamin Zephaniah, celebrating the diversity of British society. A unique portrait of British children, Benjamin has written 12 poems, each one about a child in his or her home environment. The children are from a range of backgrounds and cultures and the book challenges traditional perceptions of the way children live. It shows that despite their differences, children have many similar preoccupations whatever their cultural background. We Are Britain springs from the rich interaction between many peoples which characterises modern Britain. Illustrated with Prodeepta Das' vibrant photographs, this is a fascinating and fun collection which children will love.



Palestine

Author: Joe Sacco, Edward W. Said **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2003
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

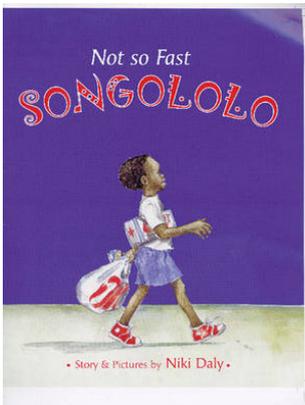
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. An extraordinary piece of current affairs reportage told in graphic novel form and recounting the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza strip.



Fly, Eagle, Fly!

Author: Christopher Gregorowski, Archbishop Desmond Tutu **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/11/2001 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

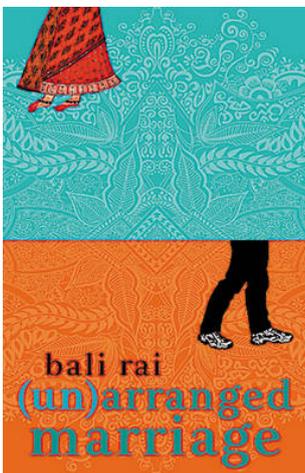
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A story of fulfilment and freedom shown through the parable of the baby eagle who is reared with chickens.



Not So Fast Songololo

Author: Niki Daly **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 18/10/2001 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

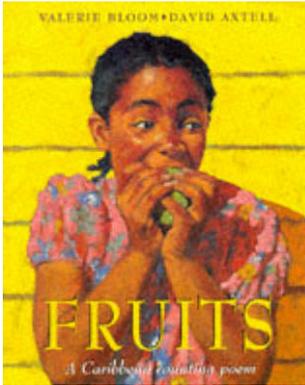
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. When Songololo's grandmother, Gogo, plans a shopping trip to the big city, he has to help her cope with all the hustle and bustle. It's all worthwhile, because at the end of the day there is a wonderful surprise in store for him.



(Un)arranged Marriage

Author: Bali Rai **Format:** Paperback (b Format) **Release Date:** 01/05/2001 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

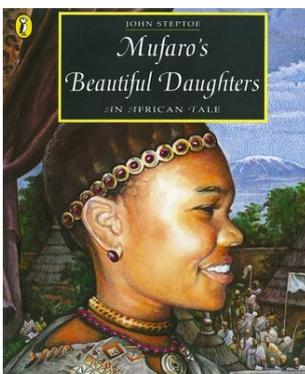
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. This highly personal story was partly influenced by Bali Rai's own experiences, it looks at the impact cultural traditions can have on young people growing up in modern times and the book will resonate with all who have experienced the pressure of expectation at the hands of their family.



Fruits

Author: Valerie Bloom **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/08/1997
Year Groups: Early Years

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A rhythmic counting poem that describes all manner of delicious Caribbean fruits as a little girl tries to eat as many of these as she can in a single day.



Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters An African Tale

Author: John Steptoe **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/06/1997
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

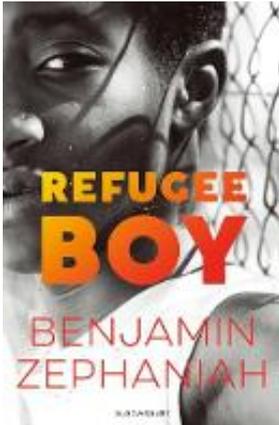
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. This special book has a fairy tale like charm as a King takes on the search for a wife. Mufaro has two daughters, one rude and mean and the other generous and thoughtful. Which will win the hand of the King?



Talking Turkeys

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/08/1995
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

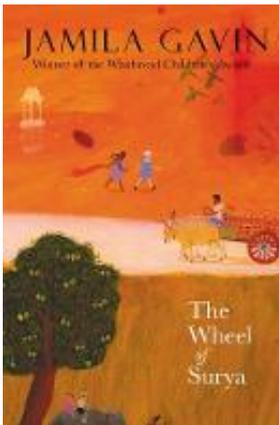
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A thought provoking and wide reaching collection of poetry for children that explodes from the page begging to be read aloud.



Refugee Boy

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback / softback **Release Date:** 28/08/2001

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...A powerful, gripping new novel from the popular Benjamin Zephaniah



Wheel of Surya

Author: Jamila Gavin **Format:** Paperback / softback **Release Date:** 15/09/2011

The dramatic first volume in the Surya Trilogy by Whitbread award-winning author of Coram Boy, Jamila Gavin. India, August 1947: Fleeing from their burnt-out village as civil war rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother, Jhoti. Marvinder has already saved her brother's life once, but now they both face a daily fight for survival. Together they escape across India and nearly halfway around the world to England, to find a father they hardly know in a new, hostile culture... A story touching on culture, class, faith and family set against the backdrop of Indian independence and the Partition of India and Pakistan. No children's books about India conveys these issues and themes with the effortless ease of Jamila Gavin. Her diverse voice is the perfect introduction to this period of history, for fans of *The Bone Sparrow*, Morris Gleitzman's *Once*, and Katherine Rundell's *The Wolf Wilder*.



The Arrival

Author: Shaun Tan **Format:** Paperback / softback **Release Date:** 02/10/2014

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey. THE ARRIVAL has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place. Sited as No 35 in The Times 100 Best Books of all time. An imaginative triumph. Every home should have one. - The Times It will fascinate and occupy adults and children alike. - The Observer Read more about The Arrival at www.thearrival.com.au Find out more about Shaun Tan at <http://www.shauntan.net>
